

UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

10/29/76

(AY011)

CONTROL 7B
29 Oct 76
1201

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

REF:

AMB
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FROM	AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES	CLASSIFICATION	
GDS	PINT, PFOR, AR	ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)	7
Conversation with Officials of Office of the President		U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS	
SecState WASHDC		Margaret P. Grafeld, Director	
SECRET BUENOS AIRES 7104 7104		(X) Release () Excise () Deny	
Buenos Aires 6986		Exemption(s):	
		Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full	
		() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to	
		Date Declassify on Reason	
1. On October 22 Dr. Ricardo Yofre, Col Mallea Gil and			
Lt. Col Cerda, all of the Office of the Presidency, lunched			
with ECA Director Zimmermann, DCM Chaplin and other Emboffs.			
Comments of the Argentine guests regarding SEGBA strike have			
already been reported (see reftel). Other noteworthy comments			
were as XXXXXX follows.			
2. Argentine guests agreed that sharp drop in real wages and			
other effects of economic austerity program would inevitably			
result in serious labor unrest, of which SEGBA and automobile			
strikes were but first manifestations. Mallea Gil indicated			
GOA would have to follow more flexible policy and take steps to			
soften austerity program's impact on workers if it was to avoid			
confrontation with labor (though he and other guests insisted			
Luz y Fuerza workers would have to give up their special			

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:WSSmith:mg <i>WSS</i>	10/28/76	128	AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL
CLEARANCES:		DCM: MChaplin <i>h</i>	
LABATT: AGFreeman (in draft) <i>WSS</i>			

50153-101

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

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privileges--see ref tel). He said he felt govt could now afford to do so since worst was behind and economy was showing signs of recovery.

3. Argentine guests called attention to what they described as discernible improvement in human rights situation. They expressed belief (and hope) that "central authorities" are beginning to get "wild elements in security forces" under control and noted by way of evidence that there had been no reprisals for Circulo Militar bombing or other major incidents (on order, for example, of Pilar massacre) for several weeks. They said President Videla and other senior authorities hope to keep it that way and hope improvement is perceived in U.S. They placed much of the blame for earlier excesses on the "bad crowd" Lopez Rega had brought in to the Federal Police in 1974 and 1975.

4. According to guests, large numbers of those held at convenience of executive power under state of siege are now being released, investigation of their cases having been concluded. This was especially true of those detained immediately after the change of govt. They admitted that others are being picked up for questioning every day, but insisted that the "political prisoner population" is declining. They insisted further that, as Minister of Interior Harguindeguy had said some weeks ago, govt does have a master list of all detainees. It has decided as matter of policy not

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to publish the list, but it does have one. Indeed, they expanded, list is now computerized. (Note: Emboffs remained unconvinced that such a list exists and even if one does it doubtless does not cover those who are picked up and not booked--else why did it take Interior Minister Harguindeguy some five days to find out where Solari Irigoyen and Amaya were being held?)

5. Comment. Guests represent moderate line in Office of Presidency. Their views, especially in terms of more flexible policy toward labor, are not necessarily shared by others in govt.

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